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Atty. Doc. No. 2002P05160WOUS

Amendments to the Claims:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Canceled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with strikethrough. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Applicant reserves the right to pursue any canceled claims at a later date.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-19. (cancelled)

20.   (currently amended) A method for updating information in an AAA (Authentication, Authorization, Accounting) server system, comprising:

regularly sending an updating message by a first AAA server of the AAA server system to all the other AAA servers of the AAA server system, wherein the updating message comprises information about changes, which have taken place since a previous updating message, of a status of subsets of an address pool which are assigned to the first AAA server;

performing an estimation estimating a number of logical addresses which will be issued issuable by the first AAA server in a time period between the updating message which is about to be sent and a next-following updating message, in the first AAA server, before the updating message is sent; and

determining further subsets of the address pool, which are assigned to the first AAA server, wherein from the further subsets the logical addresses are taken, which, are determined according to the estimation; and, will be issued in the time period, and wherein

including the updating message further comprises information about which of the determined further subsets in the updating message in order to inform the other AAA servers which logical address could be used by the first AAA server between a next time period have been determined.

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21. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 20, wherein the estimation is made by forming the product of the maximum rate at which the AAA server can process requests for the issue of a logical address and the time period between the updating message which is about to be sent and the next-following updating message.

22. (currently amended) The method in accordance with claim 20, further comprising:
checking by the first AAA server whether the subsets of the address pool ~~which will be issued~~issuable according to the estimate are available; and

if the result of the checking by the first AAA server is negative, assigning a subset of an address pool assigned to another AAA server to the first AAA server.

23. (currently amended) The method in accordance with claim 21, further comprising:
checking by the first AAA server whether the subsets of the address pool ~~which will be issued~~issuable according to the estimate are available; and

if the result of the checking by the first AAA server is negative, assigning a subset of an address pool assigned to another AAA server to the first AAA server.

24. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 20, wherein in the event of the failure of the first AAA server, the subsets of the address pool which are assigned to the first AAA server are assigned to a second AAA server.

25. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 21, wherein in the event of the failure of the first AAA server, the subsets of the address pool which are assigned to the first AAA server are assigned to a second AAA server.

26. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 24, wherein the second AAA server is determined according to a priority list of AAA servers.

27. (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 20, wherein, if the first AAA server fails, the further subsets of the address pool will not be used for the issuing of logical addresses, at least for a period of time, and wherein the subsets of the address pool which are assigned to the first AAA server are assigned to a second AAA server.

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28.   (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 20, wherein, if the first AAA server fails, the further subsets of the address pool will not be used for the issuing of logical addresses, at least for a period of time, wherein the subsets of the address pool which are assigned to the first AAA server are assigned to a second AAA server, and wherein the second AAA server is determined according to a priority list of AAA servers.

29.   (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 27, wherein the length of the time period is determined using a maximum permissible connection time.

30.   (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 20, further comprising:

rebooting a second AAA server; and

transmitting a multicast message to all the other AAA servers of the AAA server system by the second AAA server, wherein

the multicast message requests the dispatch of updating messages and the assignment of subsets of the address pool to the first AAA server.

31.   (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 21, further comprising:

rebooting a second AAA server; and

transmitting a multicast message to all the other AAA servers of the AAA server system by the second AAA server, wherein

the multicast message requests the dispatch of updating messages and the assignment of subsets of the address pool to the first AAA server.

32.   (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 22, further comprising:

rebooting a second AAA server; and

transmitting a multicast message to all the other AAA servers of the AAA server system by the second AAA server, wherein

the multicast message requests the dispatch of updating messages and the assignment of subsets of the address pool to the first AAA server.

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33.   (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 24, further comprising:

rebooting a second AAA server; and

transmitting a multicast message to all the other AAA servers of the AAA server system by the second AAA server, wherein

the multicast message requests the dispatch of updating messages and the assignment of subsets of the address pool to the first AAA server.

34.   (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 20, wherein the TCP/IP protocol, the RADIUS protocol or the DIAMETER protocol is used as the transport protocol for the communication of updating messages.

35.   (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 21, wherein the TCP/IP protocol, the RADIUS protocol or the DIAMETER protocol is used as the transport protocol for the communication of updating messages.

36.   (canceled)

37.   (canceled)

38.   (currently amended) An AAA (Authentication, Authorization, Accounting) server system, comprising:

a pool of logical addresses;

a plurality ofat least three AAA servers for administrating the pool of logical addresses such that each of the servers provides redundancy to each other; and

a plurality of disjoint subsets of the address pool, wherein

each of the disjoint subsets is assigned to exactly one AAA server, and wherein

the logical addresses of each of the subsets are assigned to a terminal device only by the exactly one AAA server.

39.   (new) The system in accordance with claim 38, wherein a portion of the disjoint subset assigned to one of the AAA servers is reassigned to a different AAA server.

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40.   (new) The system in accordance with claim 39, wherein the reassignment is in response to a shortage of unassigned logical address at the different AAA server.

41.   (new) The system in accordance with claim 38, wherein each of the AAA servers:

estimates a number of logical addresses issuable by the respective AAA server in a time period between receiving updating messages

determines, according to the estimation, further subsets of the address pool assigned to the respective AAA server, and

transmits to each of the other AAA an updating message comprising the determined further subset.